

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-07 IO-13 TRSE-00 /075 W

-----270517Z 001177 /12

R 260801Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3491

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 3402

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT KS

SUBJ: SPECIAL BY-ELECTION TO BE HELD BEFORE JULY 25

REF: SEOUL 3000

1. IN APRIL 25 LETTER TO HOME MINISTER, RECENTLY REMARRIED SPEAKER CHONG IL-KWON OFFICIALLY NOTIFIED ROKG PRESIDENT PAK OF TWO VACANT NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEATS IN CHONGNO-CHUNGKU DISTRICT, WHICH LIES AT HEART OF SEOUL. BY LAW (REFTEL), BY-ELECTION MUST BE HELD BEFORE JULY 25. PRIME MINISTER AND DRP SENIOR COMMITTEEMEN ARE SCHEDULING MEETING APRIL 26 TO DISCUSS ACTUAL DATE, VIABLE CANDIDATES AND OVERALL STRATEGY. (YUCHONGHOE APPOINTEES ARE NOT INVITED). NDP ASSEMBLYMEN ARE PREDICTING LATE MAY ELECTION TO BE FOLLOWED BY JULY SPECIAL SESSION OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

2. ALTHOUGH IT TRIED, NDP HAD NO CHANCE OF WINNING ARGUMENT TO HOLD ELECTIONS IN FIVE OTHER DISTRICTS WHERE ONLY ONE SEAT IS VACANT. OPPOSITION WOULD HAVE HAD ADVANTAGE IN THOSE DISTRICTS AND, THEREFORE, GOVERNMENT REFUSED TO AGREE TO ELECTIONS.

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3. DESPITE FORCE OF LAW, DECISION TO HOLD CHONGNO ELECTION APPARENTLY WAS NOT ALL CUT AND DRIED. DRP WORRIED ABOUT STRONG ANTI-GOVERNMENT TRADITION IN DISTRICT AND APPEARED TO BE LOOKING FOR CONSTITUTIONAL WAY OUT. SINCE PAK CHUNG HUI COUP, EIGHT OF NINE LEGISLATORS ELECTED THERE HAVE BEEN FROM OPPOSITION. AT SAME TIME NDP WAS LESS THAN ENTHUSIASTIC BECAUSE OF CONCERN ABOUT ITS OWN CONTINUAL

INTRA-PARTY BICKERING AND POSSIBILITY THAT DUP'S YANG
IL-TONG WILL NOT ONLY DIVIDE OPPOSITION VOTE BUT ACTUALLY
AWIN SEAT. IN LAST ANALYSIS HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT DECIDED
IT WOULD BE TOO RISKY POLITICALLY NOT CALLING FOR ELECTION
WHICH CONSTITUTIONALLY PROVIDED FOR, AND NDP
HAD LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO GO ALONG.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: SPECIAL BY-ELECTION TO BE HELD BEFORE JULY 25
TAGS: PINT, KS
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